

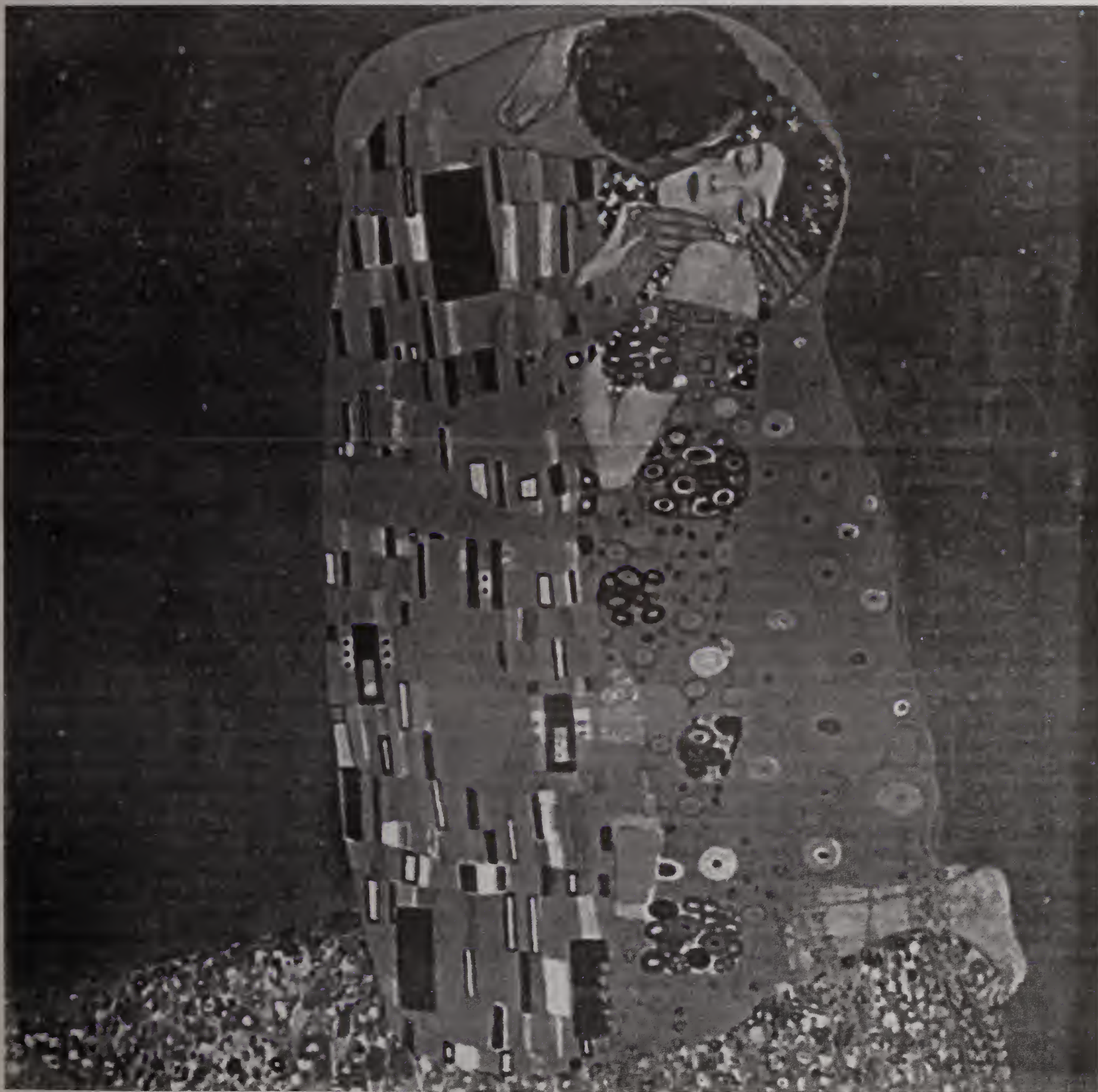
THE POINT

THE FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE STUDENT JOURNAL

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SPRING 2001

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8TH



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

CANCER RISING

To paraphrase John Dean's Watergate testimony, there is a cancer growing on the Massachusetts state college system and if that cancer is not removed, the state colleges will be destroyed by it. Already this cancer has metastasized. From the outward chronic symptoms produced by the state's continued attack on Massachusetts public teachers, it has spread silently and internally to corrupt the very nature of public higher education.

The carcinogen is clear. A malevolent state employer wishing to adopt a private business model for the delivery of public services was not held in check by the limited defenses offered by impotent employee unions. Combine this weakened immune system with the state's exemption from many of the laws regulating private employers, and a melanoma grew to darken all Massachusetts state workers.

It is about time the state heard from workers unfiltered by their union leadership. A state job is not a job of last resort for those who can't cut it in private industry. We are confident in our skills and our contributions to the Commonwealth. If Massachusetts wants to adopt the best practices of private business for the delivery of public services, we welcome the challenge. However, if Massachusetts wants to offer the top down management and job security of private industry, it will have to offer wages competitive with private industry. If Massachusetts wants to act like a private employer, it will have to submit itself to the same regulations it imposes on all private employers. Little things like equity will be expected from the state.

Finally, if Massachusetts wants to treat its employees like those in private industry, it will have to grant its workers all the rights guaranteed to private employees — including the rights to sue their employer and strike. Only then might we see the state negotiate a contract in good faith and in a timely manner. So far, Massachusetts has demanded all the rights of a private employer with none of the responsibilities. It cannot have it both ways and expect its workers to stay.

The cancer that has spread to the body of the state college system is far less obvious and thus much more insidious. Its rapid spread was facilitated by politicians who put the privateers at the Pioneer Institute ("a town-hall.com member organization") in charge of Massachusetts public education. James A. Peyser, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education, is Executive Director of the Pioneer Institute. James F. Carlin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education from 1995 to 1999, is a member on the Pioneer Institute Board of Directors. In less than a decade, the state colleges have been transformed from institutions of higher learning to state-run factories mandated to "*build the workers we need in this state*" (Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Chairman Stephen P. Tocco, 1999 August 19).

A business model does not provide the accountability required for the delivery of public services. If it makes money for their stockholders, private industry CEO's are allowed to loot and strip their companies for parts and then bail out with multi-million dollar severance packages while leaving their workers abandoned in the wreckage. This is exactly the model politicians want to adopt for the delivery of public services so they, too, can rule with impunity. Already politicians or their appointees mandate public policies and then blame the workers when those public policies fail. Politicians denounce teachers as incompetent when the politically mandated policy is to place disruptive students into old, overcrowded classrooms as a condition of their house arrest or parole (my wife has two or three such students a year at Leominster High). How can anyone teach the remaining 25-30 students under those imposed conditions?

Politicians complain about the dearth of teachers graduating from historically low-enrollment degree programs in math, science and foreign lan-

guages. Yet, those same politicians supported the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education's Program Productivity Policy mandating the elimination of all low-enrollment majors from the Massachusetts state college system that grew from the old state normal schools (see <http://www.mass.edu/about/minutes/aca/1997/aca697.pdf>).

In the public realm, accountability must begin at the top. Politicians who are not part of the solution by their public, vociferous opposition to bad public policies are part of the problem. Voters must hold their elected representatives accountable for all events they let happen without protest during their terms in office. Since starting work as an Assistant Professor at Fitchburg State College in 1993, I cannot recall any public voice of support from Beacon Hill for the Massachusetts state colleges or their faculty.

Are you part of the cure, or part of the cancer? Since public silence is tantamount to public support, the deafening silence from Beacon Hill is strong evidence that you are part of the cancer. It is strong evidence that they do not support the Massachusetts state colleges, their hard working faculty and staff, or their students. I can only hope that the workers built in Massachusetts find bliss in the ignorance you helped create for this Brave New World.

Sincerely,
Lawrence R. Guth

THE POINT

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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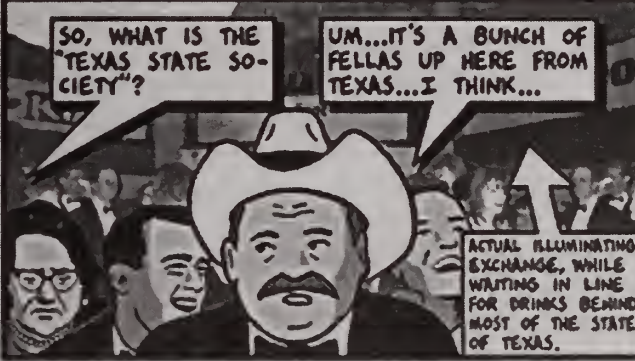
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

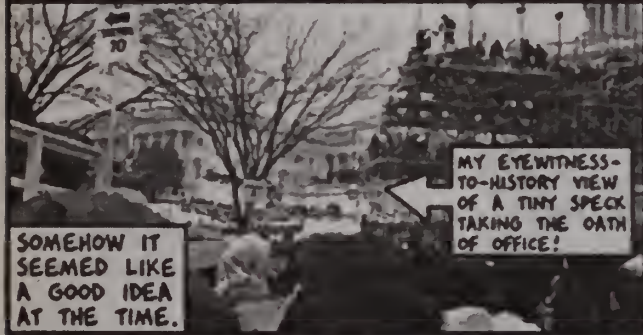
AS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIA, MY LIFE IS, OF COURSE, ONE OF NONSTOP GLAMOUR AND EXCITEMENT...WHY, JUST LAST WEEKEND, I ATTENDED THE TEXAS STATE SOCIETY'S "BLACK TIE AND BOOTS" INAUGURAL BALL--TICKETS TO WHICH WERE SELLING FOR UPWARDS OF \$1,000 ON EBAY...



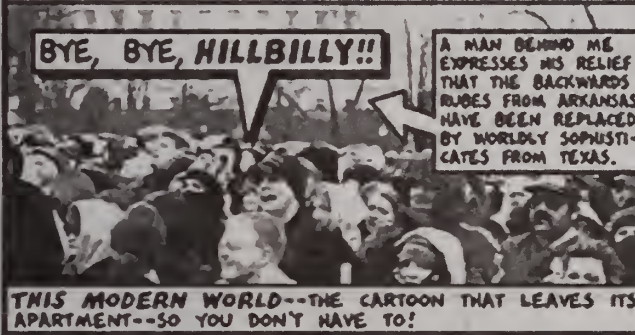
...AND BOY, DID THOSE PEOPLE GET THEIR MONEY'S WORTH! AT LEAST, IF THEY WERE HOPING TO ATTEND A PARTY WHOSE TICKET SALES FAR EXCEEDED THE CAPACITY OF THE VENUE (LEAVING MANY WOULD-BE CELEBRANTS UNABLE TO EVEN GET INTO THE BALLROOM)--AND WHERE THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE BARTENDER FOR EVERY 5,000 ATTENDEES...



AND THE FUN DIDN'T STOP THERE! THE NEXT DAY, I SPENT HALF THE MORNING WORKING MY WAY THROUGH VARIOUS BOTTLENECKED SECURITY CHECKPOINTS...IN ORDER TO SIT OUT IN THE HYPOTHERMIA-INDUCING COLD AND RAIN WITH THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF REPUBLICANS AS A SMALL, UNIDENTIFIABLE MAN OFF IN THE DISTANCE WAS APPARENTLY SWORN IN AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES...



THE RAIN MAY HAVE FORCED MANY IN THE CROWD TO HIDE THEIR TEXAS-SIZED HAIR AND FURS BENEATH CHEAP PLASTIC PONCHOS AND GARBAGE BAGS, BUT THEIR ENTHUSIASM WAS NOT DAMPENED AS THEY CELEBRATED THIS NEW ERA OF UNITY-NOT-DIVISION--BY CHEERING WILDLY AT THE MENTION OF WILLIAM REHNQUIST'S NAME...AND HOOTING DERISIVELY AT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT...



plea for parking sanity

The parking issue at FSC is a major concern of residents and commuters alike. As a former President of the Class of 2000, I know first hand the difficulties of this situation, as the issue was constantly a topic of discussion at SGA meetings. Also, being both a resident and a commuter in my years at FSC, I am all too familiar with the limited availability of campus parking.

Many have made suggestions about adding a parking garage, or prohibiting first year residents to be granted parking stickers. These so-called solutions are far from becoming a reality in the coming years.

The current solution is extremely unfair to commuters. The members of the SGA drove this new system, which allows residents to park almost anywhere on the immediate campus. Most SGA members are residents of the campus; therefore it is no surprise they voted in favor of more resident parking on campus.

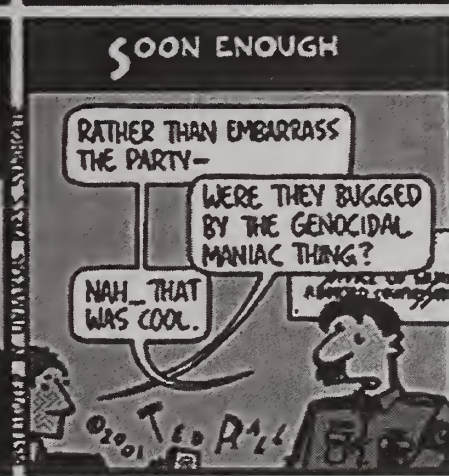
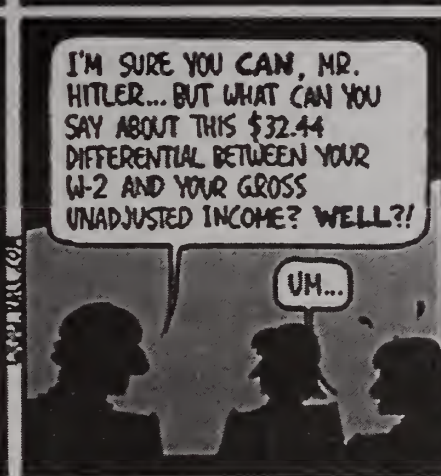
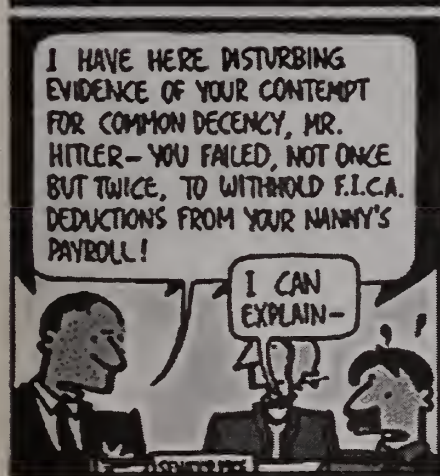
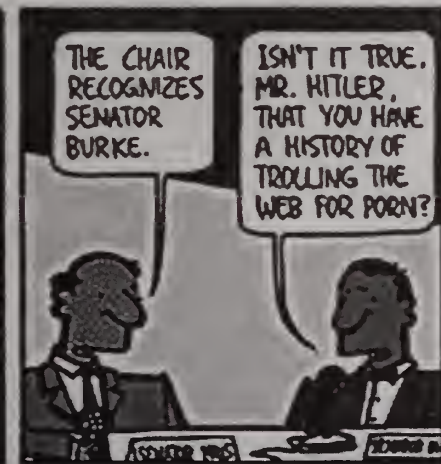
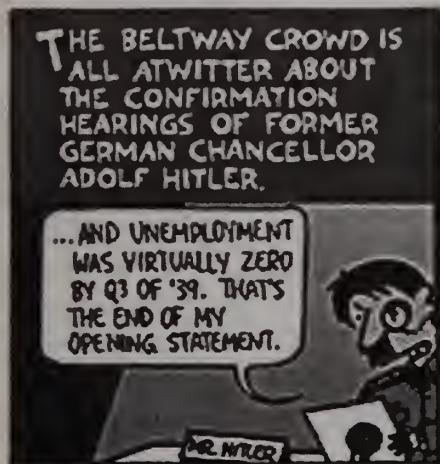
The winter ban in effect, as well as the new town parking laws restricting parking in the off campus neighborhood only adds to the problem. A commuting student living 35 miles from FSC will travel 350 miles a week and spend an average of seven to eight hours travel time. When eventually arriving at FSC, they must now park at the Civic Center, adding another ½ hour should they miss the shuttle.

Residents on the other hand can roll out of bed five minutes before class and walk. This is ludicrous.

Why can't the FSC van be on standby till 11pm so that resident students may have transportation to and from the Civic Center.

I am fully aware of the parking problems at FSC, however, the current solution is not the way to resolve the issue.

Sincerely,
Nathan C. Hagglund



Construction grants available

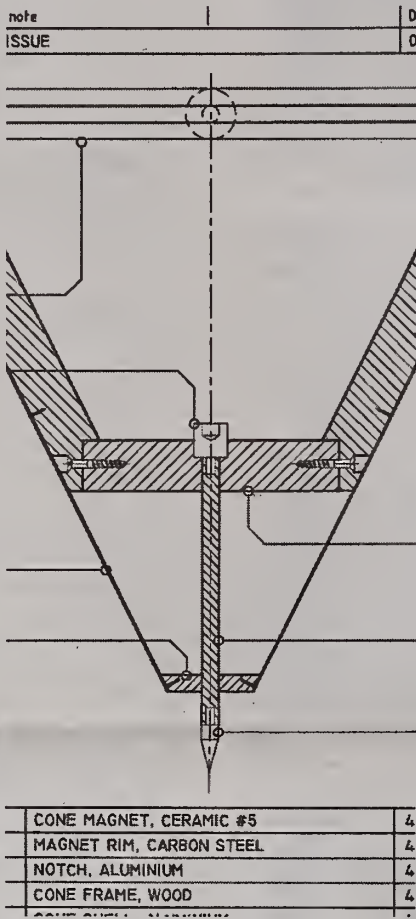
In a effort to promote professionalism in the construction industry, and further the goals of students in collegiate construction programs, the Massachusetts Construction Advancement Program (MCAP) is offering scholarship aid to sophomores and juniors enrolled in full and part-time study of civil engineering, construction, and construction management disciplines. These scholarship grants may be used by students to help defray tuition, living costs and/or books and supplies for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Applications have been distributed to civil engineering and building construction technology departments at Massachusetts colleges and universities which offer construction-oriented degrees. Additional application forms are available from the MCAP Office, 888 Worcester Street, #40, Wellesley, MA 02482-3793. Completed applications and transcripts of grades must be returned to MCAP by April 1, 2001. Award recipients will be selected by con-

tractor representatives of the Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts Education Committee, and will be announced by the end of June. Scholarship awards will be presented in September.

The Massachusetts Construction Advancement Program is an industry advancement trust formed by the Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts and the Building Trades Employers' Association of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts. It serves the union sector of the Massachusetts building construction industry with comprehensive activities in the fields of manpower training and recruitment, intra-industry relations, job safety accident prevention, public relations, market development, education, and information services.

More than one hundred sixty students, pursuing professional careers in the construction industry, have been awarded over \$250,000 in scholarship grants since the inception of the scholarship program in 1977.



I couldn't sleep at all last night...

by Amy S. Bobrowski

#1 Jump. "Baaa." #2 Jump. "Baaa." #3 Jump. "Baaa." This might be you spending countless time in bed, wishing for those few hours of cherished sleep. Counting sheep is used by many to cure insomnia.

As described by the American Sleep Disorders Association, insomnia is difficulty falling or staying asleep. More than 35 million people are victims to short term insomnia. A more serious sleeping disorder is chronic insomnia, which is insomnia occurring every or most days. Insomnia is known to bring on early signs of aging and can be a symptom of other, even more serious diseases, such as depression.

The American Academy of Family Physicians says that the most common cause of insomnia is a big change in daily routine. Dr. Neil Kavey, director of the Sleep Disorders Center at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in NY, suspects that some people inherit a vulnerability to have their sleep disrupted by stresses that others can sleep right through.

Dr. Kavey recommends the use of only prescription drugs to cure insomnia along with the uses of habits to improve sleeping patterns. He passionately discourages the use of over the counter drugs because they have "mediocre effectiveness and the have the potential of giving you a hang-over." To prevent tossing and turning, the number one rule is to avoid caffeine at least four to six hours before bedtime. The use of alcohol before bedtime is discouraged as well. The FDA also recommends avoiding exercising for four to six hours before you hit the sack. It has been proven that exercising earlier in the day can actually improve sleeping soundly.

We also all have those nights when we lie in bed and think of all the things we could have done differently throughout the day, things we have to do the next day, and remembering what we forgot to pick up at the grocery store. Put those worries out of your mind if you want to sleep like a log. Construct a list and plan to address these items at another time. The FDA says that even worrying about having a hard falling asleep can lead to continuous restlessness.

However, if blocking those worries doesn't seem to work and you are still awake within fifteen to twenty minutes after snuggling under the covers, jump out of bed and read or do another relaxing activity. Relaxing activities are also stressed for use immediately before bedtime. To put you in a calm frame of mind for sleeping through the night, try taking a nice warm bath, listening to soothing music, and/or munching on a light snack. Another way to induce pleasant sleepiness is to make sure your bedroom is free of environmental disturbances, such as light, excessive noise, and extreme temperatures.

Also recommended is a set sleep schedule. If practiced, over a period of time your body will become used to the schedule and have less problems falling asleep and waking up without wanting to throw that alarm clock out the window.

Short-term insomnia may be cured by the use of healthy sleeping habits, but if the symptoms persist or if you believe you are suffering from chronic insomnia, Dr. Kavey recommends that you see your doctor immediately. If you believe you are suffering from a sleeping disorder, you may contact the following organizations for additional information:

American Sleep Disorders Association: www.asda.org

Sleep Disorder Centers of America: (800) 373-7326.

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Penn & Teller: 25 Years of Blatant Disregard for Societal Norms

Penn & Teller bring their irreverent brand of comedy and magic to Boston's Shubert Theatre for a two week engagement, playing Tuesday, February 13 through Sunday, February 25. This 25th Anniversary Tour show combines Penn & Teller's favorite classics with some brand new sleight of mind. Tickets are on sale at the Shubert Theatre Box Office 265 Tremont St., Boston or through Telecharge (800) 447-7400, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; or at www.telecharge.com.

Self-proclaimed "eccentric guys who have learned how to do a few cool things," rip-off artistes Penn & Teller are well-known for their surprising and dangerous scams and tricks. Together since 1975, Penn & Teller's award-winning theater shows have been long running hits both on and off Broadway.

Thier latest show, according to Penn, is "this no-kidding-critics-called-us-geniuses-on-Broadway live show. LIVE! No camera tricks - hey - no cameras. And more important, no TV losers telling us all the things we can't do. Live, we'll do whatever we want.

"We'll give away tricks without bags over our heads. Maybe we'll throw knives and catch broken liquor bottles. You want a cute little bunny? How about we throw a cute little bunny into a chipper shredder? "Would it be fun to bring Houdini back from the dead?... Okay, we'll do that. And if local law

enforcement can be bought, we'll do the gun trick for you. Penn & Teller will do whatever Penn & Teller want. Who's going to stop us?"

Favorite guests on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "The Late Show with David Letterman," Penn & Teller have made dozens of television appearances including, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "The Today Show" and "Saturday Night Live." Penn & Teller are also frequent guests on several popular tele-



vision series, having appeared as attorneys Fenn & Geller on "The Drew Carey Show"; as well as appearances on "Dharma & Greg," "Babylon 5" and "The Simpsons."

The 1985 PBS special, "Penn & Teller Go Public," won two Emmys and the International Golden Rose. Other television projects have included the recent Emmy nominat-

ed variety series "Penn & Teller's Sin City Spectacular," the ABC special "Penn & Teller Home Invasion," the Showtime movie "Penn & Teller's Invisible Thread," and "The Unpleasant World of Penn & Teller."

"Penn & Teller's Phobophilia" originally for Britain's Channel 4, is currently airing on Comedy Central. *Penn & Teller Get Killed*, directed by Arthur Penn, saw the pair in their big screen debut.

Penn & Teller have written two best-selling books, *Cruel Tricks for Dear Friends* and *How to Play with Your Food*. Their newest book, *How to Play in Traffic*, is a collection of practical jokes, miracles, and anecdotes, that makes travel funnier than ever before. The duo serve as Visiting Scholars at MIT and have lectured at the Smithsonian Institute and Oxford University.

Penn & Teller opens February 13 at the Shubert Theatre. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m; Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m; with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$49.50, \$45.00, and \$35.00 for all performances. All prices include the \$1.00 theatre restoration fee. Discounted tickets are available for groups of twenty or more through the Shubert Theatre/Show of the Month Group Sales at (617) 350-6000. TTY: (888) 889-8587.

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And in this corner...

Another political first from the fine folks who caused a monkey to become president: Florida state Rep. George Albright has introduced legislation establishing a new cabinet post: secretary of barbecue.

The position would be by appointment of the governor and consist of a one-year unpaid term. The Barbecue Secretary would be involved in the promotion, dispersal and enjoyment of barbecue and "barbecue culture."

Albright, co-owner of two barbecue restaurants, says, "I am very serious. It's a serious subject. Barbecue is big busines in this state."

RED MEAT

hopped up on what you mopped up

from the secret files of
Max Cannon


Johnny Lemonhead! You seem rather lightly dressed for such a brisk day.



It's weird, Ted...the cold weather doesn't seem to be bothering me much this week.



I guess I'm still toasty warm from the other night when your bowling team burned my house to the ground with a flamethrower.



Sorry about that, John. My new teammates aren't as experienced at huffing duct sealant as I am, so they tend to get rambunctious.

nocturnal transmissions:

The WB and Me

by Tess Rhonda Luhrcott

Okay, so the WB as a network is great. They have a lot of different kinds of shows, and on the whole they are pretty good. I tend to watch a lot of television, since I have one in my room, that being the one private place I have. Mother has been very "feng shui" this semester which means she is constantly redecorating; rearranging the plants and reupholstering chairs. The little fountain hasn't stopped moving since she bought it two weeks ago. Anyway, let me give you an overview of a week with the WB.

Mondays you'll begin with *7th Heaven*. This is about this couple

who, I think, adopts all these kids or something. I've never actually watched a whole episode. My teeth start grating, and I keep expecting the mother to pull down the drapes and make all the kids jumpers

so they can go frolic in the hills. I also have a feeling the Christian Coalition may have a silent production deal with this show.

Anyhow, after that comes *Roswell*. How different can two shows be? *Roswell* has four teenagers who are human/alien hybrids. They have powers and go to high school and constantly avoid being exposed as aliens. There's also this great star-crossed romance between the lead alien guy and a human girl. I really hope they graduate these kids fast though, and just skip college. They hardly go to school now as it is, and they're all

gorgeous and, like, twenty-seven in real life.

Tuesdays are my favorite, with *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*. These are great shows! Sarah Michelle Gellar plays the title character who, armed with stakes and a killer wardrobe protects Sunnydale, CA from vampires and demons. There's also a great supporting cast, my favorite being Alyson Hannigan, who plays Willow, Buffy's best friend. The writing is great, and I've been very impressed with how Willow has been dyking out since last year.

I love *Buffy*, and I've watched it since it began. It used to be a weekly ritual for my step-sister Julie and

me, but then she got Epstein-Barr and had to go away for awhile. Anyway, after *Buffy* is *Angel*, which is darker and more "L.A." It stars the gorgeous David Boreanaz who plays the noble vampire hero. He is in

that new movie *Valentine*, which looks deliciously trashy and dumb, a prerequisite for all films starring Denise Richards.

I bet David had reservations when they offered the part to him though, like when my boyfriend Joe first asked me to go anal. I didn't really want to, but I thought it might further our relationship, or in David's case, his career.

Wednesdays start with *Dawson's Creek*, which, honestly, I just don't get. They all just seem so monumentally bored. My gay friend Sean watched it for a while. He told me since they kept switching the pair-

Continued on page 11

Not your ordinary yokel...

by Mark Whittemore

If you're like me, by this time in the term, you're already starting to get bored with reading texts that were either written a hundred years before you were born or written in dry scientific notation. For a book that is neither of those and will actually keep your attention, read *Slackjaw*, by Jim Knipfel.

Slackjaw is a memoir of Knipfel's life, which has been an interesting one, to say the least. The book is basically about Jim, who slowly goes blind over time, but does not let blindness get him down, but the rest of his life does a good job of that. Just to give you an idea of the kind of person Knipfel is, his favorite philosopher is Nietzsche, he constantly drinks homemade wine and was going to give cigarettes to kids as Halloween treats. Knipfel takes the reader through several cities and decades, while exposing them to the odd events, jobs, and people that make up his life.

I will not give too much of the book away, but I will tell you it has it all, from several suicide attempts to a genie of sorts. *Slackjaw* is odd in that even though it deals with what might be considered darker times in Knipfel's life, if you're not a politically correct person all the time, you will laugh out loud at several points, I know I did.

Slackjaw cost \$13.95 at stores, but if your computer savvy (and cheep like me) there are copies on half.com. And while online, check out Knipfel's column at www.missioncreep.com/slackjaw/



FSC Poundstoned again

by Pat Brown

Last Friday night comedian Paula Poundstone performed at Fitchburg State's own Weston Auditorium. The snow didn't deter any fans as Poundstone performed before a capacity crowd of over 600. The fans were not disappointed as Poundstone went through a hilarious set that lasted nearly two hours and still managed to leave the crowd wanting more.

Poundstone started off by poking fun at Fitchburg's relative obscurity and continued in good-hearted fun for the rest of the night. From clueless audience members and flustered security guards to sign language translators and even herself, no one was safe from Paula Poundstone's wit.

Throughout the show Poundstone spoke candidly and humorously about her triumphs and travails in dealing with obsessive compulsive disorder and being a single mother. Relating her misadventures in parenting, such as coping with the fact that her daughter is, as she put it, smarter than her.

Poundstone's unique sense of humor and wit kept the audience in stitches all night, especially when she rendered her impression of a cat having difficulties with a hairball that you had to see to believe.

Presented by the Fitchburg State College Student Government Association, Paula Poundstone's concert was a huge success and left her many fans, students and the general public alike, laughing all the way home.

A veteran of The Tonight Show as well as her own sitcom, Poundstone performed before a packed house at Fitchburg State in 1998 as well.

DeZarn to play FSC

Teresa DeZarn, who has performed in such Broadway musicals as *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Secret Garden* and *Showboat*, will perform songs of the Valentine season at a vocal concert at Fitchburg State College on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. The show will benefit the fourth annual AmeriCulture Arts Festival. Passes from the 2000 AmeriCulture Arts Festival season and tickets from DeZarn's canceled Oct. 15 performance will be honored at the door. Tickets may also be purchased by calling the Weston Box Office at 978-665-3347, Monday-Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m., or at the door. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students and \$3 for children.

DeZarn's credits include Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, Magnolia in *Showboat*, Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Lily in *Secret Garden*, and Grizabella in *Cats*.

For more information, call Sharon Bernard at 978-665-3547.

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FSC HAS ITS DAY IN COURT...

by Joanna Jackson

No one expected David to kill Goliath; no one expected the U.S. hockey team to beat Russia at the 1980 winter Olympics; and no one expected a small New England state college to take home a trophy from the National Undergraduate Moot Court Tournament. But they did.

Two teams from Fitchburg State College took on 18 other teams from much larger universities and argued a religious freedom case before a panel of judges at the tournament held at the University of Texas at Arlington.

One FSC team, Beckett Augat and Michael O'Connell, claimed second

place in the tournament, losing only in the final round to a team from Hardin-Simmons University in Texas. The other FSC team, Mary Gallant, and Katie Kimber, lost to Hardin-Simmons in an earlier round.

In a moot court competition, students are required to argue the merits of hypothetical cases before actual judges and lawyers. According to Dr. Paul I. Weizer, advisor for the FSC teams, students are judged on their manner, style, and knowledge of the case.

All teams are given the same case and must be prepared to argue for and against it.

Involvement in tournaments such

as this is a common practice for universities with extensive pre-law programs but uncommon for colleges like FSC which are not part of a university with a law school, Weizer said.

Weizer, who teaches a class called Introduction to the Legal Process in which the students do a simplified version of a moot court, proposed the idea of participating in the national competition to four of his students in early December. "I thought it would be worthwhile to try the next step," Weizer said. "I never thought we'd do this well, I just didn't want to go out and embarrass ourselves."

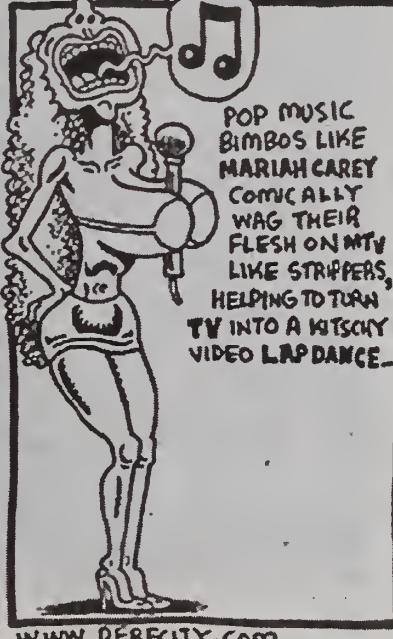
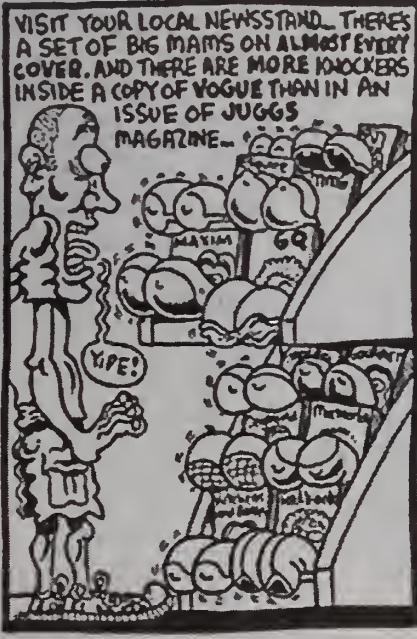
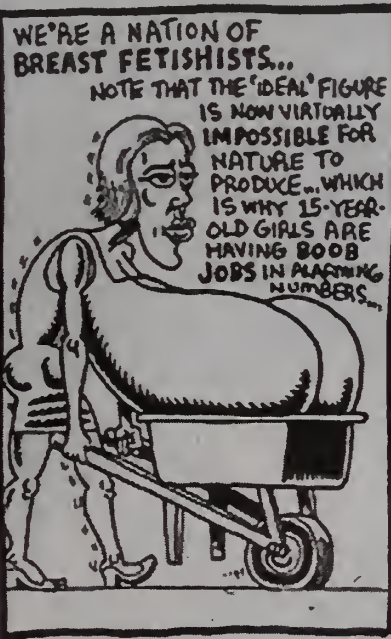
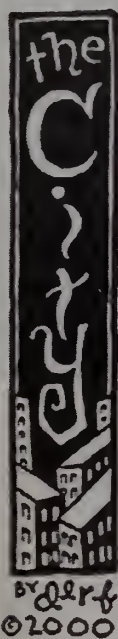
Hardin-Simmons University had

won four or five times in previous years, Weizer said, in addition to having participated in various state and regional tournaments. This was the first time that FSC had participated, he said.

"All credit goes to the students," Weizer said. "They did an amazing amount of work."

Beginning in the first week of December, the teams met three times a week for six weeks to prepare for the tournament, Weizer said. In addition to Weizer, Keith Glenny and Beth Walsh, both attorneys and adjunct faculty members, helped to prepare the students for the tournament.

Continued on page 11



WWW.DERFCITY.COM

TIGER STANDS TALL

by Scott Sheldon

You know, we toss about the word "awesome" an awful lot these days, but we don't often think about what it really means. Use this word when something strikes you, when you are moved and astounded and perhaps a bit overwhelmed. Use this word when you talk about *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

The new film by director Ang Lee is the total package, complete with suspense, drama, romance, and action like nothing you have seen this side of the Pacific. Awesome is the word.

Taiwanese director Ang Lee has taken the stories of his childhood, which are a sort of mixture of American tall tales, westerns, comic books, and fantasy, and has created a lush and inviting world set in 18th-century China.

Chow Yun-fat and Michelle Yeoh star as Li Mu-bai and Yu Shu-Lien respectively, two longtime partners in fighting the good fight who are not quite ready to speak their true romantic feelings for each other. Zhang Ziyi also stars as Jen, a young girl born into aristocracy, but looking for life outside of marriage and societal norms.

The story revolves around the sword of Li Mu-bai, the Green Destiny. In his pursuit of retirement he entrusts the sword to one of his mentors, but when it is stolen he and Shu-Lien are drawn into a confrontation with the young thief, and the infamous criminal, Jade Fox. Further detail would give away some of the twists and turns, but in the end you have a story of love, honor, and betrayal like no other.

Be prepared, this is a foreign film, and that does mean subtitles. No complaining, you still must see this movie. The entirety is in Mandarin Chinese, which was a challenge for the two elder leads, neither of which spoke it as a first, or for that matter, second language. Michelle Yeoh has admitted to, at times, speaking the lines phonetical-

ly without actually knowing what she was saying. She still delivers a nuanced performance garnering her much-deserved Oscar buzz.

Also in the running is director Ang Lee, and the film itself. It won Golden Globes for both Best Foreign Film and Best Director, so you'll most likely see *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* nominated for more than one Oscar soon enough. Some of those nominations will likely be in the effects categories, thanks in large part to Yuen Wo-ping, a master of kung fu choreography, known by we Westerners as the guy behind the action in *The Matrix*, known by those who know better as "Master Yuen."

This film is such an achievement. You may have already heard of the dazzling sword play, the magical effects. When battling, these warriors need not obey physics. They are running up the sides of walls, leaping across rooftops with ease, skipping across the surface of water, and gliding through the air like birds. And the speed of the battle sequences is amazing! You blink and you've already missed three or four moves. The energy and finesse, the grace of the sword play is breath-taking, and the locations,

Continued on page 9



From top down: Michelle Yeoh, Chow Yun Fat and Zhang Ziyi

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come let your voice be heard

SITES TO BENOL

by Ben Reed

The Internet is plagued with pointless sites, sites that we find ourselves looking at for hours on end. More often than not, they are meaningless and waste what little brain cells we have. Yet, we are intrigued by these sites solely because they provide us with a reason not to do the work we have in front of us, and because they spark our curiosity. Valentine's Day brings to mind a few of these sites that I've just talked about.

The first of which is fun for the first five minutes then its novelty wears off and the site is forgotten about forever, a typical scenario for a website of this nature. Yet for those brief minutes, I'm sure you'll get at least one laugh or two.

At www.lovecalculator.com you not so scientifically determine if people's relationships will succeed based solely on their names. My roommates and I got a kick out of pairing ourselves with a variety of women. According to the calculator I'll have a 26% chance of succeeding with Brittney Spears, a 64% chance of making it with Christina Aguilera, and sigh, no chance of being with Jennifer Lopez. I got a big fat goose egg with her, Sigh!

Everyone knows those little candy hearts that have messages on them, yet sometimes they just don't fit the occasion. That's why at www.fal.net/hearts.html a list has been composed of 101 slogans that should be printed on those tiny candies. You'll get a small chuckle out of some of them. My favorites are Not Ever and U Smell. I know of at least half a dozen people I would hand those out to.

One more last minute site from USA Today. Remember Darva Conger from "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?" Apparently she has her own spot on the web at www.darvashouse.com I'll never know why I went to this site in the first place, but anyway, the self called expert on life tries to offer advice about fashion, love, and other brainless things. To get any of her words of wisdom though, you have to register with the site, something that I was not about to waste my time with, but feel free to try it yourself, if you can get the site to load up. I went back to her domain later on in the day and it wouldn't load. It was dead as fast as her marriage.

Until next week, keep surfing and if you know of any sites useful or not that the college community may find interesting send them my way at breed@fsc.edu.

NO 'PAPER TIGER

Continued from page 8

the rich settings make the story all the more beautiful to observe.

Have I gushed? Have I gone too far? I don't think so. This film has been widely praised, and again I think you'll see it continue all the way to Oscar time. Of special note are the accolades for Ang Lee, who has consistently created quality projects (*Sense & Sensibility*), but not always received the deserved recognition (*The Ice Storm*, *Ride with the Devil*). To see a director continuously pick projects from varying origins (Jane Austen costume

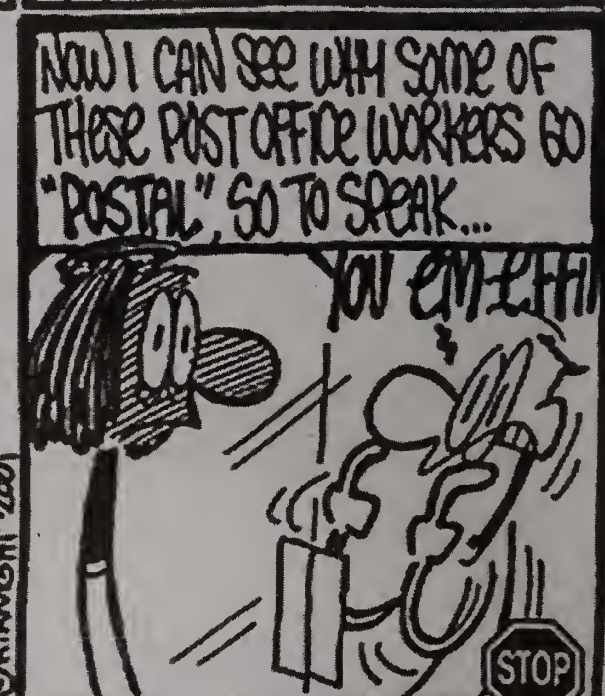
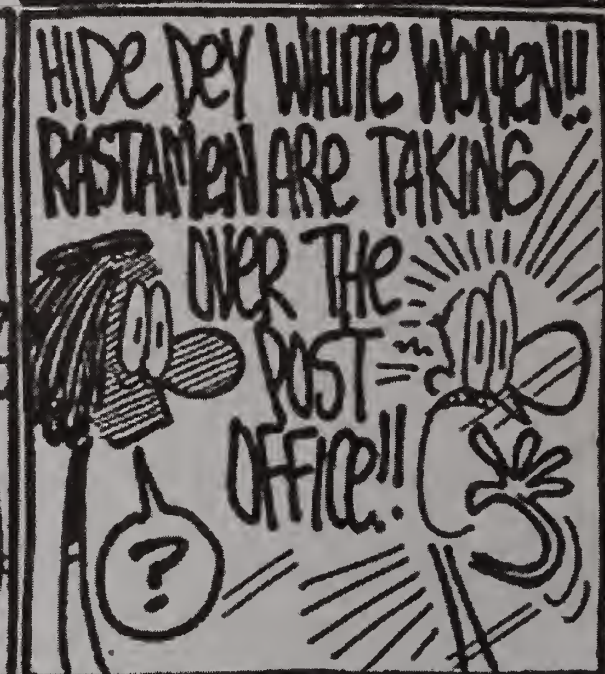
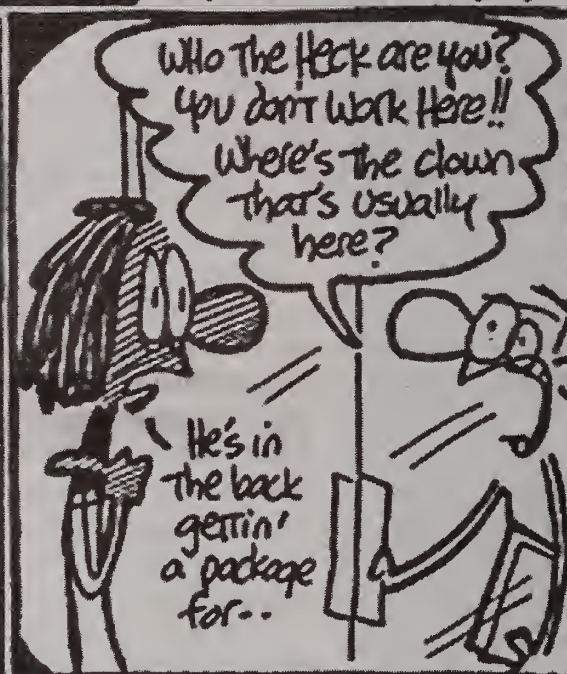
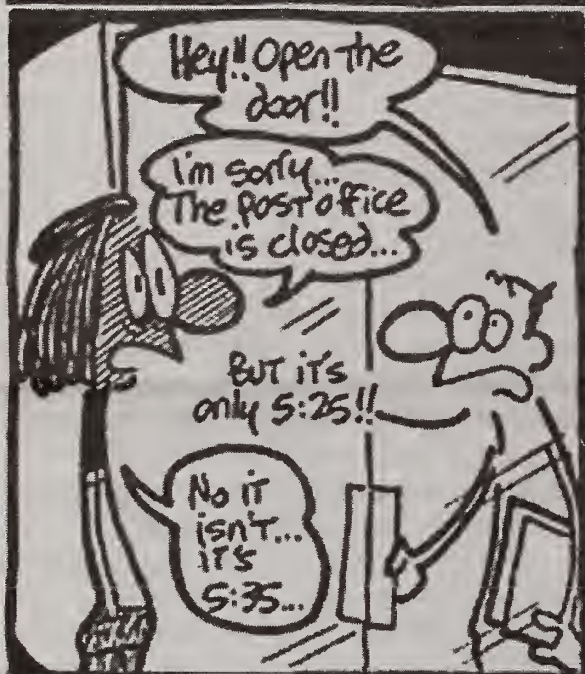
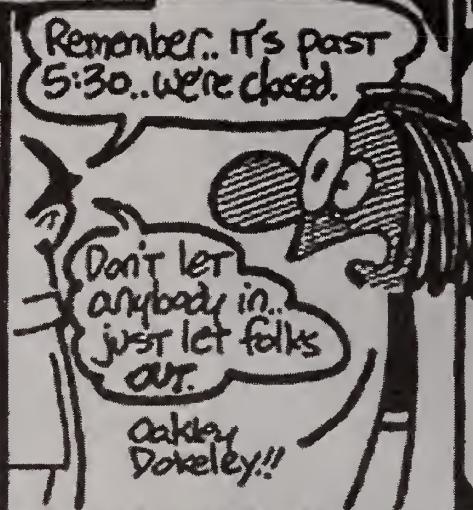
drama, 70's suburbia, the Civil War), and make each one work is a true achievement. It is rumored his next project may be the long-awaited (and already once-attempted) adaptation of Marvel Comics' *The Incredible Hulk*. If it happens it will surely be another film to diversify and strengthen his oeuvre. Admittedly, I have a fondness in my heart for Ang Lee films, but my bias aside, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* is one for the library, a true original, and my choice for best film of 2000. Don't miss it.

THE K CHRONICLES

BY
KEITH
KNIGHT

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THIS VICTORY IS ANY-THING BUT MOOT...

Continued from page 7

During practice, the teams spent three weeks preparing arguments in support of the case, and then switched for three more weeks to argue the opposing view. Weizer, Glenny and Walsh questioned the teams, forcing the students to defend their positions.

According to Mary Gallant, the practice was "brutal" and she found the questions much easier during the actual tournament.

The tournament was held on Jan 19 and 20 at the University of Texas at Arlington. The FSC teams were the only ones from the northeast, going up against opponents from universities such as Clemson, University of Arkansas and the University of Texas.

The teams argued cases exactly as if they were in an appellate court or before the Supreme Court, Weizer said. They had to be able to "think on their feet, think quickly, and not get rattled," as they argued their case and judges questioned them.

On the first day of the tournament, the 20 teams argued for and against the case in the preliminary round. On day two, the eight finalists argued one side or the other

until the final round. At each round, a coin toss determined which side of the case a team would argue.

The teams argued their cases before panels made up of lawyers, district court judges, and law professors, and although speaking in front of these professionals was nerve wracking, it was also great experience, Gallant said.

The students received no credit for being involved in this event, but according to Weizer, they will benefit from it in law school where they will be required to repeat the experience.

Augat's and O'Connell's runner-up position earned them a trophy and a \$500 scholarship.

Weizer said he hopes to send teams again next year, and plans to begin earlier in the fall to allow more time for preparation. He wants to open the competition to any student who wishes to participate and according to Weizer, any major would be able to be involved since it is as much about debating and style as it is about the law.

Contestants are also judged on diction, grammar, and projection, making it a perfect opportunity for english majors, Weizer said. "Anyone could participate."

Let me keep the blooms I have of you, though faded they will endure. For when a rose truly dies, there is nothing but thorns.

WB TV is OK

Continued from page 6

ings of the four leads, and since Kevin Williamson is gay, eventually they'd put Dawson and Pacey together. Then they got the gay character, and Sean is now waiting for him to get some action.

Anyway, after Dawson is *Jack & Jill*, which I avoid. Young urbanites in love...blah...blah...blah. Come spring though, *Felicity* will return.

Keri Russell is one of the fourteen Mickey Mouse Club alumni currently making it big, although she doesn't sing. She's great in the lead role though. For all of you not following the show, we'll soon find out who got shot at the party by Molly's junkie boyfriend. I'm betting on Noel. In the throes of death he'll admit he still loves Felicity, further complicating the whole Felicity-Ben-Noel love triangle.

Thursday begins with my favorite show, *Gilmore Girls*. It's sweet, it's cute, it's romantic, and it is so hilarious. It's also set in this idyllic little town you'll wish you grew up in,

especially if you grew up around here like I did.

After *Gilmore Girls* is *Charmed*, starring Shannen Doherty, Alyssa Milano, and Holly-Marie Combs as magically gifted sisters. I love Shannen because for years she was accused of being witchy on *Beverly Hills 90210*, and now she actually plays one. The show, however, is kind of tame, and don't you just feel bad for Holly-Marie Combs? She'll always be less famous than her two more infamous costars.

Well, that's it. Actually, there are more shows on the WB, but I don't watch much television on the weekend. I do have a life, and a boyfriend, and let's be honest, programming on the weekend is never very good. What are we going to watch, *Walker, Texas Ranger*?

In any case, next time you're bored or need to relax, maybe looking for something a little bit different, turn on the television and check out the WB. Unless its Sunday, then you're on your own.

WRAP THAT RASCAL!

The American Health Association will sponsor National Condom Day for the eleventh consecutive year on Valentine's Day, February 14. ASHA reminds people to "love responsibly" by protecting one another's sexual health.

"Valentine's Day is nationally recognized as a time for love, to tell that special person in your life just how much they mean to you," says Linda Alexander, President and CEO for ASHA. "We encourage people to talk openly and honestly with their sexual partners about the sensitive subject of condoms as a way to reduce the risk sexually transmitted diseases."

There are an estimated 15.3 million cases of STDs diagnosed every year in the United States. Many people with an STD don't know they have one. Condoms offer the best protection for people who do have sex. Alexander adds, "By using a condom you avoid getting or transmitting an infection that you might not even know you have."

If you have questions about condoms, or about sexually transmitted diseases, call the CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines at either 1-800-342-2437 or 1-800-227-8922. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For information in Spanish, call 1-800-344-7432 from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., Eastern Time, seven days a week. TTY users can get information from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday at 1-800-243-7889. You can request free information from any of the services.

FALCONS CLIMB IS CHECKED

By Shaun Moriarty

The Fitchburg State Falcons Ice Hockey team had a great opportunity to move up in the division standings this past week with two games that could've moved them into the top five. However, they're still in sixth place after dropping both.

Going into 'sudden death' overtime, the Falcons had the opportunity to overtake U-Mass Dartmouth in the ECAC Northeast standings as they hosted the Corsairs last Saturday, January 27. However, they couldn't pull it off in front of 300 fans at the Wallace Civic Center, despite an early 3-0 lead, and fell to U-Mass Dartmouth by a final of 5-4.

Senior forward John Whittemore scored less than two minutes into the game, with an unassisted goal at 1:55. It was senior captain Tony Cinquegrano who would strike next, with a little help from Bob Rumley and fellow captain Jeff Brodeur. The goal was scored at 3:44 and was Cinquegrano's ninth goal of the season.

Freshman Mike Savastano would give the Falcons their largest lead of the night, with an unassisted goal at 4:33. Savastano has two goals in his collegiate hockey career, coming in consecutive games. After Brian Geever was called for High-Sticking and Lee Hamilton was charged with Tripping, the Corsairs scored. U-Mass Dartmouth's Matt Brown knocked the puck past Falcons goalie Jason Holt for the power play goal. Sean Young was credited with the assist and the Corsairs were on the board at 10:24.

Just over two minutes later, Bruce Warren of U-Mass Dartmouth scored an unassisted goal. Warren's goal came at 12:52 and narrowed it to a 3-2 Falcons lead. Whittemore scored a second time, his fourth goal

on the season, at 15:04. The assist was credited to Chris McNeil, a sophomore forward. Just under four minutes into the second period, Falcons defenseman Brian Baldassare was called for Cross-Checking and Roughing, a total of four minutes in the penalty box for the two fouls. The Corsairs took advantage of the power play and struck again. Shawn Sheehan knocked the puck into the net with the assistance of Young and Jamie Carroll. The power play goal was scored at 6:44.

U-Mass Dartmouth would tie it up in the third period when Tom Brown, on a pass from Scott Gallagher, put it by Holt. With just 39 seconds left in regulation, Fitchburg's Shane Coleman was called for holding. This would prove to be the downfall of the Falcons. U-Mass Dartmouth's Shawn Alles scored the game-winner just 25 seconds into the 'Sudden Death' overtime with the assistance of Jared Spencer.

Then Saturday, February 4, the Falcons hosted Tufts and were slammed by the number three team in the division, 7-0. Tufts scored early and often. Justin Picone scored just 31 seconds into the game, assisted by Scott Hayes and Rob LaQuaglia. Mike Carceo would be the next to score, with a feed from Rob Greene at 3:11. The next score wouldn't come until the second period with a Don Mahoney goal at 11:06. Mahoney's goal was assisted by Tim Havern. Exactly one minute later, Scott Hayes scored. Mike Carceo with the assist. Tufts made it a blow out with a 5-0 lead when Pat Byrne scored at 14:47. Mahoney and Natan Obed were credited with the assists.

Then all hell broke loose. There were 11 penalties called at 15:17 into the second period. Tufts' Scott Hayes was penalized for two min-

utes for roughing. Alex Gardner of Tufts was one of three players tossed out of the game after fighting. He was penalized for fighting and then game disqualification. Then the Falcons got their share of penalties. Fitchburg's Bob Rumley was twice charged with fighting and disqualified for it twice. Falcons co-captain Tony Cinquegrano was also involved in fighting and was tossed out of the game. Finally, the Fitchburg State bench was charged with unsportsmanlike conduct and game misconduct. It all added up to 11 penalties, three players thrown out of the game, and a grand total of 74 penalty minutes.

The third period had its share of penalties as well. There were 11 more penalties in about a four minute span early in the third, including a game disqualification of Fitchburg's Andrew Phillips. Tufts' final two goals came at 7:45 and 17:54 in the third. The goals were scored by Rob LaQuaglia, assist by Scott Hayes and Mahoney, and by Rob Greene, assisted by Tim Havern.

Tufts' goal-tender Ben Crasper played the entire game and got the shutout, with the Falcons making 28 shots on goal. The Falcons are now sixth in the ECAC Northeast with a 7-11-2 record, 6-6-1 in the division. Tufts is third behind Wentworth and Johnson & Wales. Tufts is 13-4-0 on the season, 11-1-0 in the ECAC Northeast.

The Falcons have two games this week, four in the regular season. Thursday, February 8, they host Assumption College at the Wallace Civic Center at 7 pm. Then on Saturday, February 10, they travel to Plymouth State for a 4 pm game.



B-BALL BLUES

by Shaun Moriarty

Tough times for the Fitchburg State basketball teams, both mens and womens. The Mens team is 8-11 on the year, only 2-5 in the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference. They are sixth in the MSCAC, a division of seven teams. The girls team is in the same boat. The Lady Falcons are 7-12 thus far, 1-6 in the MSCAC. Like the men, they are sixth in a field of seven.

Last Saturday, January 27, the guys played Bridgewater State College and came away with a narrow victory. They won by just two points, 61-59. The girls, however, lost to Bridgewater by a score of 73-64.

On Tuesday, January 30, they hosted the Worcester State Lancers, but fell 66-53. The girls played a much tighter game, and lost by a single point in overtime, 58-57.

Both the men and the women will be playing host to Westfield State this Saturday, February 10. The girls play at 1 p.m. while the mens' game is scheduled for a 3 p.m. start.

Westfield State's mens team is 10-8, fourth in the standings. The girls team is 13-5 on the year, second in the division only to Salem State, 13-3.

On Monday, February 12, both teams will travel to Framingham State College to take on the Rams. The girls' tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. Mens' game is slated for 8 p.m.

Framingham State's mens team is 7-9 on the year, fifth in the division. The Lady Rams are 12-6 on the year, third in their division.

FALCON ATHLETICS THIS WEEK

Thursday, February 8

Ice Hockey v. Assumption College; 7:00

Saturday, February 10

Ice Hockey @ Plymouth State; 4:00

Womens Basketball v. Westfield State;

1:00

Mens Basketball v. Westfield State; 3:00

Monday, February 12

Womens Basketball @ Framingham State;

5:30

Mens Basketball @ Framingham State;

7:30